



PRESS RELEASE

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Union and Administration Agree on Testing Procedures but Firefighters File Injunction to Stop Promotional Process Anyways

Fire Lieutenant and District Chief Positions Will Remain Unfilled

Akron, Ohio (August 24, 2012) - The City seeks to administer promotional examinations to fill Fire Lieutenant and District Chief positions within the Akron Fire Department, positions the firefighter Union has urgently sought to fill.

In an effort to move the promotional examination process forward expeditiously, Mayor Don Plusquellic offered to let the firefighter Union participate and select the consultant who would administer the promotional test for the Fire Lieutenant and District Chief positions.

Typically, administering a promotional examination falls within the responsibility of the Civil Service Administration members. In this instance, the union and the City cooperatively and unanimously selected the testing consultant to develop these testing processes and have had

multiple discussions regarding these impending tests. Panels of multiple supervisory fire personnel, and all union members, have participated in assisting in the development of these tests. Mayor Plusquellic did not participate in the selection of the testing consultant at all—he never talked to, met with, or otherwise involved himself in the selection of the testing consultant. The selection was made with the unequivocal approval of the Union.

Yesterday, a group of disgruntled firefighters filed an injunction in a court case that is pending in federal court (Judge Adams) to stop these exams. They filed this injunction knowing that they have continually fought for these promotions and have continually argued that the City is circumventing the promotional process. They filed this injunction knowing that it is their member firefighters, those firefighters who are currently eligible for these coveted promotional positions, will now not be promoted.

In light of the motion for injunction, Mayor Plusquellic has now directed the Akron Fire Chief to utilize existing supervision and to re-organize the Department within the confines of the contract. The agreed upon promotional testing company will not be utilized, and the promotional process will be halted. City resources previously dedicated to these exams will now be expended to hire additional entry level firefighters.